

GRAUSTARK

#284 1971BG, 1971EB, 1971FC, 1972A, 1972E 10 February 1973

1972A "Fall 1909" 1972E "Winter 1907"

MAP STILL LOOKS LIKE FRUIT SALAD

The comedy of errors which affects both the play and the adjudication of this game continues. In the last issue, the move was labeled as "Spring 1908" instead of "Spring 1909". And, following those moves, the dislodged Turkish army could retreat not to Warsaw but to Rumania - which it did. Players were informed.

ENGLAND (Lipson): F Lon-holds; F Spa (s.c.)-Por.

FRANCE (Reif): F Lyo-Spa(s.c.); F Mid S F Lyo-Spa(s.c.); F Wal-Liv; F Cly S RUSSIAN F Nrg-Edi.

GERMANY (Huddleston): A Ber-Pru; A Mun-Tyr; A Boh-Gal; A St. P S RUSSIAN A War-Mos; F Ber-Nrg; F Nwy S F Ber-Nrg; A Yor-Edi; F Bel-Nth; A Bre holds.

ITALY (Ayres): A Nap-Rom.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Honig): A Gal-War; A Vie-Tri; A Tus-Ven; A Pie S A Tus-Ven.

RUSSIA (De Prisco): A War-Mos; A Liv-Mos; F Nrg-Edi; A Pru-Ber; A Ser-Tri.

TURKEY (Murray): A Bud & F Tun hold; F Ven holds; F Ion-Nap; F Tri-Adr; A Rum S A Bud; A Alb S RUSSIAN A Ser-Tri.

Underlined moves are not possible. Turkey retreats A Ven-Apu. The High Combatant Powers now control the following supply centers:

ENGLAND: Lon, Por. (2)

FRANCE: Liv, Spa. (2)

GERMANY: Bel, Ber, Bre, Den, Hol, Kie, Mun, Nwy, Par, St.P., Swe. (11)

ITALY: Rom. (1)

(continued in next column)

ENGLAND (Abbott): Builds A Lon.
FRANCE (Lipson): Builds A Par.
TURKEY (Hendry): Builds A Con, F Smy.

Owing to the changed situation, the original offer of a draw has now been withdrawn. The deadline for "Spring 1910" moves is NOON, SATURDAY 24 FEBRUARY 1973.

1971EB, Spring 1910, Winter 1910
MUTAG, MOON at 11:00 "1911 result"

ENGLAND (Birsan): Builds A Honig
FRANCE (Holcombe): Removes F Lyo.
ITALY (Brooks): Removes A Apu.
AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Drakert): Builds A Vie, F Tri.

The deadline for "Spring 1911" moves is NOON, SATURDAY 24 FEBRUARY 1973.

PARIS: The English government's latest act of treachery was hardly necessary. France could have built the army England wanted, while England removed the surplus fleet in Belgium and then built the following year. Nor was it necessary to lie to us, as we could have not opposed this latest stab even if it had been announced. But then we had no illusions that England would not gobble us up. Nor do we care for the treacheries of Austria-Hungary or Italy. So we will stay a loyal ally to that treacherous Birsan and hope that his conscience will yet make him suffer.

PS: If word is waiting from France, it has been waiting from England much longer.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY: Mar, Ven, Vie, War.

(4)
RUSSIA: Con, Edi, Mos, Ser, Sev, Tri. (6)

TURKEY: Ank, Bud, Bul, Gre, Nap, Rum, Smy, Tun. (8)

Germany may build 2 units and Russia and Turkey may build 1 each. France must remove 2. The deadline for "Winter 1909" moves is NOON, SATURDAY 24 FEBRUARY 1973.

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"Spring 1907"

RUSSIA ELUDES BALKAN QUAGMIRE

The "Winter 1906" Russian build of F Sev is in error because Sevastopol was occupied. Russia actually built A Mos.

ENGLAND (Lipson): F Liv-Nat; F Bel-Eng; A Bre-Spa; F Mid C A Bre-Spa; F Naf-Tun; F Wes S F Naf-Tun.

FRANCE (Latin): A Spa S AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN A Mar; F Por S A Spa.

GERMANY (Schleicher): A Gas-Mar; A Dur S A Gas-Mar; A Tyr-Vie; A Boh S A Tyr-Vie; A Mun-Tyr; F Den holds.

ITALY (Burley): F Ion-Nap; F Adr-Ion; A Ven-Tyr; A Tri-Bud; A Vie-Gal.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Derman): A Mar holds.

RUSSIA (Phillips): A Mos-Ukr; A Bud-Rum; A Gal S A Bud-Rum; F Sev S A Bud-Rum; F Arm-Bla; A Syr-Smy; F Swe blows kisses at her sweetheart in Den.

TURKEY (Nierenberg): A Ser S ITALIAN A Tri-Bud; A Bul-Rum; F Bla S A Bul-Rum; F Con S F Bla; F Eas-Syr; A Smy S F Eas-Syr; F Tun-Wes.

Underlined moves are not possible. Retreats or removals are:

ITALY: A Vie-Tri.

RUSSIA: A Syr annihilated.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY: A Mar-Pie.

TURKEY: F Tun-Tyr.

The deadline for "Fall 1907" moves is 6 PM, MONDAY 5 MARCH 1973.

1971BG

"Fall 1910"

ENGLISH OVERRUN ITALY

Following "Spring 1910" moves both dislodged units were retreated to Piedmont, and accordingly both were annihilated. Players were informed.

ENGLAND (Lipton): F Apu-Nap; F Ion S F Apu-Nap; A Tus-Rom; F Tyr S A Tus-Rom; F Wes-Tun; F Lyo-Wes; A Spa-Mar; A Mos-Sev; A St.P-Mcs; F Nth & F Por hold.

GERMANY (Berman): A Bel holds; F Bal-Den; A Rum-Bud; A Sev-Rum; A Tru-War; A Sil-Gal; A Boh S A Sil-Gal; A Mun-Tyr; A Ven S A Mun-Tyr.

ITALY (Leeder): A Gre-Alb; A Rom-Gre; F Nap-Apu; A Smy-Ank.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (S. Tesser): A Bud-Rum; A Tri-Ven; A Tyr S A Tri-Ven; A Vie S A Tyr; F Aeg-Bul(s.c.).

RUSSIA (Barents): A Bul-Con; A Ank S A Bul-Con.

Underlined moves are not possible. The Italian A Rcm & F Nap are dislodged and annihilated. The High Combatant Powers now control the following supply centers:

ENGLAND: Bre, Edi, Liv, Lon, Mar,

GERMANY: Bel, Fer, Den, Hol, Kie, Nun,

Mos, Nap, Nwy, Por, Rom, St.P,

Par, Rcm, Sev, Ven, War. (11)

Spa, Swe, Tun. (14)

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY: Bud, Bul, Ser, Tri,

ITALY: Gre, Smy. (2)

Vie. (5)

RUSSIA: Ank, Con. (2)

England may build 3 units, and Germany may build 2. The deadline for these "Winter 1910" builds is NOON, SATURDAY 24 FEBRUARY 1973. Press releases begin on p. 4.

AND 'ROUND AND 'ROUND IT GOES - I

by Robert Bryan Lipton

Many postal Diplomacy players have come in through science-fiction fandom. The notion of an alternate history, of the world which would have resulted from a different outcome for some crucial historical event, is appealing in both science-fiction and war-gaming fandom. This is the first in a series of articles by Bob Lipton, reviewing books on this theme.

One of the many plot ideas in science-fiction is the 'Wheels of If' idea. This plot is based on taking a certain turning point in history, and forecasting the results that would have occurred if the event had not been the same as our world's.

Purists insist that the first of this type of story was published in 1919 by a lady named Gertrude Bennet. (The story, The Heads of Cerberus, was published under the pseudonym 'Francis Stevens', no doubt to avoid annoying the male chauvinist pigs.) However, the trend towards this novel was almost definitely established by Murray Leinster (Will F. Jenkins) in his novel Sidewise in Time. Since then, the theme has been used effectively many times. One of the best practitioners of this form is L. Sprague de Camp.

The Wheels of If is a collection of De Camp's early stories, reissued by Berkeley in 1970. Including the title novelette, there are seven stories, but the only important two are Wheels of If and the short story The Snarly Man, which is the adventure of an immortal Neanderthaler in New York City.

De Camp is not one to do things by half measures. The difference between our universe and the alternate one are twofold. The Arabs, it seems, were the victors at the Battle of Tours, and King Oswiu of Northumberland accepted the Columbanine Heresy.

What's that? Did I hear someone say "The Who of What accepted the Which?" Be patient.

First of all, the importance of the Battle of Tours has been vastly overstated. Despite its huge size, the Arab army was merely a raiding party. If they had won, they would have taken back some gold and other valuables. Since they lost, they returned to the areas definitely under Arab control.

But, despite the Frankish victory in this world, Arab dominion over Septimania* was not usurped until 759.

It is interesting that De Camp has such a low opinion of the Franks, despite being of French ancestry**. The Franks were not geniuses at governing, it is true, but they did a far better job than the Lombards, or the Saxons, or the Bavarians.

The Columbanine Heresy might have had a grave effect on the history of the world. It differed from Orthodox Christianity mainly in the assignment of the date of Easter. Its area of strength was Ireland, the sections of modern Scotland that were held by the recently converted Picts, and Wales. Oswiu in accepting the spiritual overlordship of Rome helped to stamp out one of the last major heresies that would arise in Christianity until the problems with iconoclasm arose later.

The danger of the Columbanine Heresy was that in isolated Britain it might have formed the nucleus for a major, permanent division of Christianity. Such a division might have had a grave effect when the time for the Crusades rolled around.

As to the story: Allister Park, a young district attorney in New York, finds that he keeps waking up in different worlds each morning. When this distressing situation has stopped, he finds himself in the 'Bretwalda of Vinland', in a world where the colonization of North America was a going proposition by the eleventh century.

Park is not overly interested in this world; he wants to get back to his own, where he is in line for City District Attorney. But it seems that he got into this

* - Now Roussillon. - JB

** - The first De Camp in this country, like several of my own ancestors, were Huguenot refugees. They have the same high regard for the homeland of their forebears as Jews do for Spain. - JB

world through a man who was working for the opponents of the man whose place he has taken: Bishop Ib Scoglund. The Bishop has been working for the civil rights of the Indians (called 'Skrallings' here). To get back to New York, Park must fight the police, the local government, the national government, and the director of the nut-house where this man who got him here has been placed.

In solving these problems, it is necessary for Park to take over local and national government, start a civil war, and have a neighboring Indian nation attack Vinland.

Meanwhile, as with all De Camp novels, there is plenty of local color. Park is pulled into court for indecent exposure. (His navel was showing.). There's a drunken Indian who has acrophobia, and much more in this tightly written novel.

The world evolves naturally from the changes in history, and De Camp knows his history. He makes the bits he throws in (not enough to be boring) realistic and fascinating.

One final point, to demonstrate De Camp's erudition: The language in the novel is a blend of Anglo-Saxon, Norwegian, and Celtic, just as the culture is. For instance, the unvoiced guttural fricative (written 'gh' and pronounced as the German 'ch') is retained in the language. Some of the words are different: 'jinn' is substituted for 'match'. Considering the success of the Moslems in this world, this is entirely logical.

And all of it is logical. And fascinating. Buy the book, and you'll see what I mean.

1271EC - PRESS RELEASES

MIDDLE FIRTH (Bottom Of A Sewer Tank): Frito and the other boys, namely Hasha and Aqua Lung, were walking through the once green grass of home that had since turned into some very dry grass. Anyway they were in the old home of Hasha and well. Hahsa was telling them all about the place when Frito asked, "But what good is it?"

"What good is it? Why you....." Hahsa has a hard time controlling himself. While he is having this hard time, Juci Lucy came and got rid of it for him, and on they went.

PULLY (BOAST): On the walls of the cities next to Robert Sucks, great are new signs. Roberts got the best in the west. The is one other saying also, Robert Blows. The meanings for all thees things are being sought. Anyone with info should in form the editor of this paper.

HIT RECORDS INC (BOAST): You call that a song, it is the worse thing I ever heard of. I'll buy it and it will sellllllll.

MIDDLE FIRTH (BOAST): Robert Alamode site pondering his fate.

"The way I see it I lose. No matter what happens I'll lose. I get Happy Half Acres or that other shit, God what did I get into, I know what happen, while I was out here for the good of Phumphia I got the shaft! THAT IS IT the shaft, that is my only way out."

He then gets out in front of his men.

"MEN, we must find the shaft, if we find the shaft then we'll get it, either way we get the shaft, but then if we..."

"What shaft sir?"

This is

"Any shaft?"

"Why, I"

O At

"Why why whywhywhywhy?"

P Great

What about Noami?

E Intervals

I'll get into that later, but frist we must find the shaft

R This

If you find Noami then you find the shaft

A Appears

where is Noami?

T To

Find Noami

I Inflamm

ZOOLAND (BOAST): Due to a foul up in the PO around this area the press that was sent in last week was lost in the mails. Maybe some other day I'll remember it and put it on you brother.

O Optic

N Nerves

ISSHEMEAL-GAKA (BOAST): As Hasha and friends make their way to Hasha's birth place they find that all the land around it is or has

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been burned down.

"Hash (that is Hasha for short) what happened?"

"It all went up in smoke"

"I hope they all had a good trip"

It was the beautiful Hisha fields had all be burnt up and all was black now. But the air sure did smell good. It was the guys from Pollutor that blew too much and went on their last trip.

KOARSAR, POLLUTIDAR (URRP): Honj the Horny, Emperoar of Pollutidar, announced to a madly cheering throng at the Inferial Palace that the forces of the Inner Crust had devastated a strange country found midway between Pollutidar and the Outer Crust. "This land, Middle Firth, was populated by a kind of creaturs called 'Herbits'," he told an audience of Koarsars, Cave-Men, Mahars, Mezops, and others of the various races of Pollutidar. "Their chief crop, a kind of aromatic weed, was completely burned. I would like to assert that rumors of the strange effects of this weed are completely unfounded, and that there is no connection between these events and the strategic withdrawal of the Third Mahar Air Force, the Royal Koarsar Terciary, the Ninth Mastodon Cavalry, the Umpty-Eleventh Jukan Sappers, the 11th and 18th Mezop Marines, the Xexot militia contingents from the cities of Peeri-Peeri and Norbi-Norbi, and the Coripi tribes of Huk, Layin, and Sinkah."

Reliable sources at the Ministry of Preparedness for War and Dinner claim that, as a rest cure, these units have been sent off to conquer Phoney Baloney.

WOODMERE, L. I. (From the office of Kinney, Lipschitz & Boringman, synthesists): We regret the slowdown in press releases that has occurred in the last month. (Please note that our contract allows such lapses, provided that they do not last for more than 99 years). This lapse was due to a contract with the government of Prax (bzz! hum! click! click! hum! click! snaf (Gamma Origami C).

The contract was for the invention and construction of a fast, inexpensive method of interstellar travel. Using the 'electron tunnel effect', our Messrs. Kinney and Boringman constructed a little gadget which they term a 'hyperneurotron'.

Unfortunately, in testing the device, it was discovered that a decimal point had been misplaced. Instead of transferring the testing chamber, all of the Mergenthwinker Building (with the exception of the lobby) was transported to Gamma Origami 8. It took several weeks to find and repair the mistake.

In the meantime, we are now undergoing a strike. The union claims that its members should receive time-and-a-half for overtime on an alien planet. Since our contracts contain no such provision, we are fighting them. A slowdown will continue until this matter is settled.

However, we can now offer to the World (Sol 3) several Origamian items. Chief among them is Snaw(bzz! hum! click!) tio flakes. Our Mrs. Vinapoduka has been unable to speak after sampling these taste-bud titillators, which our Mr. Lipschitz says, "Combine exquisitely the tastes of gherkin ice cream and pepperoni pizza, with a hint of mint."

Please write us for prices on Origamian items.

HAPPY HALF ACRES, PHUMPHA (IDUNNO): The Phumphan Phoreign Phorces today left for Hydunderabad. Following the recommendation of Umberto the Last, they will not announce whose side they will join in the civil war. Robert of Abalone was quoted as saying, "It all depends. We do not wish to upset the Phumphan tradition of joining the losing side in a war, and so we will wait until we can see who will lose before we decide."

When asked about Naomi, Robert unequivocally replied, "No comment."

HYDUNDERABAD (URRP): Maharajah Kamasutra IX, absolute ruler of this small Indian state, today denounced the rebel forces of Pandit the Bandit "and their newly imported alien allies, the Phumphan Phoreign Phorces." He told a wildly cheering audience of 39 peasants and 2,000 soldiers with drawn swords that "the forces of international revolutionary violence shall not stand between us, the legitimate hereditary ruler of Hydunderabad, and victory."

HYDUNDERABAD (URRP): Pandit the Bandit, leader of the Reristaltic Movement, humbled defiance at "the effete tyrant Kamasutra IX who, no longer having the confidence of the people of Hydunderabad, has called in the mercenary armies of Phumpha to prop up his tottering throne." He was cheered by a crowd consisting of 39 peasants and 2,000

revolutionaries with nooked arrows.

LONDON, GREAT BRITAIN (JUNKS): War Minister Churchill had several announcements on the war today.

"Occupation of Italy has begun. The Germans have occupied Venice, and our new allies, the Russians have taken Ankara. Meanwhile, our Pollutidarean allies have devoured the Italian fleets that formerly occupied the Gulf of Lyon and the Ionian Sea."

"The Russians are our allies?"

"Junk"

"Yes. His Majesty has recently joined the Society for the Preservation of Rock Doves, Dutchboys, and Other Pigeons. Following his orders, we have ceased to attack Russian positions."

"What happened to Signor Wardeni, the ex-leader of Italy?"

"He was on the Pasta warship of the Ionian Fleet. Pollutidar captured him. When asked about him, the Pollutidarean ambassador said, 'that's a spicy meat, a ball', and asked for some Alka-Seltzer."

POLLUTIDAR (URRP): There was an uproar in the Representative Diet as news reached the Inner Crust about the suspension of hostilities between England and Russia. "Our battles have betrayed us!" shouted Ark the Accurate One, a delegate from the Suvian Islands. "I have seen, as he threw a spear completely through Lord the Greasy One, Minister of Preparedness for War and Dinner. He is now dead. The late cabinet minister could be hauled out. This is a roar appointed as his replacement a Yexot named El-Yot, who undertakes to respond to the Suvian's question. 'The Yexot applies only to England,' the new minister replied. 'I am happy to say that Pollutidarean forces have completely drive the Russian troops out of Russia, and that their remnants are now awaiting internment in the devastated land of Turkey. This accomplishes a considerable saving to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Food Procurement, since we will be able to use the same pens and abbatoirs for the Russians as have been used for the Turks."

"How about that Dutch Russian Turk who's been seen in our tunnels?" shouted the Coripi delegate Gunt.

"He has been trapped in the ruins of Middle Firth, and we are reliably informed that he has no provisions except an aqualung and a bag of fritoese. His capture cannot now be long delayed."

The members of the Inferial Diet seemed mollified by these explanations, and contented themselves with throwing Mahar eggs at each other.

MASONOPOLIS, PHUMPHA (JUNKS): The Phumphan government refused to admit any knowledge of the whereabouts of the Scarlet Pumpernickel, Phumpha's secret service. The Scarlet Pumpernickel has been missing since the beginning of the Fourth Annual Phumphan-Liechtensteinian War and Frisbee Competition.

Rumors continue to fly that he is actually looking for information on Naomi. Kelvin the Swede has continued to say nothing concerning this rumor.

HYDUNDERABAD (URRP): Pandit the Bandit, in an interview at his secret headquarters in the Gonnalaya Mountains, declared that that sinister international spy, the Scarlet Pumpernickel, is working for Maharajah Kamasutra IX. "Furthermore," he said, "I can reveal that the Scarlet Pumpernickel is really the illegitimate son of the Crimson King! That bloated tyrant who is in highly temporary occupation of the throne of Hydunderabad has imported an ally more dangerous to him than to his enemies!"

HYDUNDERABAD (URRP): Maharajah Kamasutra IX accused the rebel leader Pandit the Bandit of hiring the services of a Red agent, the Scarlet Pumpernickel. "The international Red revolutionaries stick together," he told reporters. "Pandit may think he is using this espionage agent, but he will soon be out of control even of his own revolutionary movement."

NEW HAVEN, CONN. (IDUNNO): In the small dormitory room, the caped man stumbled and fell. Cursing, he rose.

"Who's that?" said a sleepy voice.

"Don't move," said the caped figure. Carefully, he went over to a light switch and turned it on.

"All right, Naomi, you've led me on a long chase, but I've found you."

"My name isn't Naomi. I'm not even a girl," said the young man and rubbed his

sleep-filled eyes. "Who are you?"

"A clever disguise, Naomi, but it can't fool me. I laugh at your disguises. Hah, hah. All right, we'll play it your way. I'm the Scarlet Pumpernickel, Phumpha's secret service."

"Boy, have you got the wrong time-line, Phumpha's on DIP-1971EC, and this is way over on OWWT-1972-26A."

"Thought I couldn't find you, eh, Naomi? Remember, I'm an expert at eluding shadows, and that makes me an expert at shadowing. In fact, I've written a little poem about it. 'They seek him here, they seek him there -'"

"How did you find me?"

"A press release was sent out on this time-line that mentioned Phumpha. Since no one from the Woodmere Academy Royal Phumphan, Punning & Playing Superghost Society was active, it had to be you. 'They seek him here, they seek him there-'"

"Are you going to take me back?"

"What do you think? 'They seek him here, they seek him there-'"

Naomi abandoned her attempt at disguise. Wiggling seductively, she said, "What about it, Pump?"

"That's an odd question coming from you, Naomi. 'They seek him here, they seek him there-'. Aren't you going to interrupt?"

"No. Finish it."

"I haven't gotten any further."

Suddenly, Naomi picked up a tin of dusting powder and blew some into the eyes of the Scarlet Pumpernickel. While he was blinded, she made her escape.

After his eyes cleared, the Scarlet Pumpernickel discovered her operations that had been carried out in the dorm. Realizing that it must be concealed from the people of that time-line, he took out his electric tuba and blew low A#. Then, signalling Kinney, Lipschitz & Boringman back in Base Time-Line, he disappeared before the tuba could go off.

The papers the next morning reported that everything had been destroyed, and that the room's occupant was missing and presumed dead.

But the Scarlet Pumpernickel knew that his work was just beginning.

WOODMERE, L. I. (From the offices of Kinney, Lipschitz & Boringman, Synthesists):
WARNING: Burn this report after reading to avoid spreading of infection.

A crisis is at hand. The press releases from 1971EC show evidence that the various time lines are coalescing. Example: Hasha Hisha, the Crimson King, Aqualung, and various other characters, who demonstrated all the symptoms of being people peculiar to time-line 1970BN, have begun to turn up in various 1971EC press releases.

Example: A Phumphan press release has turned up, distorted, in FREEDONIA's game 72.26a press releases for #51.

This has occurred, despite the fact that no authorized Phumphan writer has written it.

Destroy all copies of GRAUSTARK and FREEDONIA immediately. Unless this is done, the merging of our universe, and universes DIP-1966AA, DIP-1967U, and OWWT-1972-19d are inevitable. Act now, before it is too late!

BROOKLYN (URRP): The Bureau of Usually Reliable Sources, , International Travelers, and Intelligence Spokesman confessed itself at a loss to locate "Time Line OWWT-1972-26A" "We have no record of such a Time Line," said the BURSITIS representative, preserving the traditional anonymity. "There is a OWWT-1972-26C, and at one time there was a OWWT-1972-12A, but Kinney, Lipschitz & Boringman have apparently discovered a totally new timeline."

The BURSITIS spokesman admitted, however, that his information might be incomplete. He said that most of the agency's personnel was investigating the situation in a mythical city called "Philadelphia", whence highly irregular press releases had been emanating. "If that place can exist," he said, "then any place can exist."

MIDDLE FIRTH (JRRT): Frodo walking along with Hasha and Aqua Lung starts talking about a mission that he is to complete. After Hah sa has listen for a few minutes, he breaks in telling Frodo, that he too is on a Mission, and that on his mission he is after the John, and that the Crimson King has sent him on this mission.

Frodo listening, then breaks in on Hasha saying, that "it was a wizard in scarlet

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robes that told him of his mission. The mission was to find the door that the key went into. But Hasha said that He too had a key that had to fit somewhere, and that he had been wondering around the world, ie Russia and Turkey, for some time now.

They talk some more and they find that they seem to be on the same mission, for some red neck.

HELLESPOINTED (HOT): Hasha and Frodo, still talking about how there lives are almost the same, bump into a castle.

"You know," Says Hasha, "This looks almost like my Ishemeal-Gaka."

"To me it looks like the home of my uncle Baggies" Frodo says.

"How can this be?" Hasha said. "I mean we are almost like twins from different eras and different times, that some how by accident come together on the same time line. It is as though we where living at the same place and on different times when we meshed together."

"Hasha baby," Frodo says, "Me thinks you been at your key again."

JOKESTER (LAUGH): What do you call a mad German? A Sourkraut!

WOODMIRROR (Lippy, Kiddy, Schwass and Ludwick): Reports from all over the globe have come into the former offices of other press deal or something. anyway these reports state that Phumpia has been blown to pieces by a mad bomber. The entire 3 square inches were wiped out completely, never again to be heard from

KOARSAR, POLLUTIDAR (URRP): The surrender of a second Outer Crust nation was formally delivered to His Inferial Majesty, Honj the Horny. France formally capitulated when a gigantic earthquake shook Lisbon, opening a crack in the earth through which swarmed six squadrons of Horib cavalry, mounted on pedigreed gorobors. The surrender was signed by the highest-ranking French survivor, Sous-Corporal Charles de Gourde. De Gourde signed the agreement with his own hand, which was also delivered to the Emperoar. The rest of him had "disappeared" during the trip from the Outer Crust. The Horib officers who reported the victory were invited to a banquet by the Emperoar, but declined with regrets.

With this capitulation, there remain only five of the seven noisy Outer Crust nations whose war, on the other side of the 500-mile-thick crust, has been disturbing the sleep of Pollutidareans. It is widely believed here that a Russian surrender is only a question of time. The Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Food Procurement is already planning to stock the Russian steppes with Inner Crust livestock, and to settle there several thousand colonists from the various human, sub-human, and non-human races of Pollutidar. The Ministry has also distributed to the various tribes of Horibs, Coripis, Azarians, and other anthropophagous races recipes for such delicacies as Russian Stroganoff, Russky-Babs, Muscovite a la Barbe Flambee, Frozen Siberians, Arkhangelfood Cake, Kulak Kola, and Cannon Fodder on the Half Shell.

ROMA: Ioannes Primus (Optimus Maximus) states that the glories of the Ancient Empire are being equalled and in some instances surpassed. The Western Empire, ruled from Rome, controls, through its British feudaries, all of Gallia, Britannia, Hyperboria, and Hispania. The Germanic mercenaries rule Venetia, Germania, and the country of the Scythians.

The Eastern Empire, centered on Byzantium, holds sway over Graecia and Asia, while the Varangian Guard of the Rus occupy Pontus and the mouths of the Danube. Great is our glory!

He also mentions that a number of weird-looking creatures emerged from the gaping maw of Mount Vesuvius the other day. After eating a number of Britannic mercenaries, they showed obvious signs of distress and raced back to the volcano. The strange glorp-ping sounds heard later may have been Vesuvius. On the other hand...

WOODMERE, L. I. (JUNKS): That's one, Don, and only mules get three.

BROOKLYN (IDUNNO): In this corner, Herbert Barents, dealer in Dutch spelling and rotten typing. In this corner, Robert Bryan Lipton, perpetrator of Phumpha.

As a handicap, Bob will wear boxing gloves.

To your typewriters, men. Look at them go. Lipton attacks with a London press release, which Barents blocks with a resurrected potato chip. Wow!!

There was a beautiful 1-2, a set of Woodmere and Pollutidarean press releases. Herb's on the ropes. Bob's coming in with a show song. Herb's down. The referee's counting.

Herb's up at 500 to 1 at Beaucaillon. He's throwing two robots and a blackbird at Lipton. Lipton's staggering, but keeping his paper. Look at that! Four pages of press releases. Herb can't get in a byline. It's amazing how Lipton can type with those boxing gloves. There goes the bell.

Herb's manager is protesting. He says that Bob should wear the gloves on his hands. The referee says that as long as he types with his nose, Bob can wear them on his feet.

There goes the bell. They're out there, slugging away. Bob's playing the tuba, and Herb's smoking something. The crowd's going wild!

This is going to be a long fight, folks. The winner will meet Boardman for the World Championship. Who knows who it will be?

THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY

As the last issue of GRAUSTARK was in preparation, rumors were floating all over the place about a "truce" or "ceasefire" that was miraculously going to end the war in Vietnam. At the time I wondered whether it might necessitate some changes in the pessimistic views I expressed in that issue's "Miscellany" column and the article "The End of Argument".

I needn't have concerned myself. The agreement itself virtually guarantees a continuation of the war in Indochina. Although President Nixon called it "Peace with Honor", it contains nothing that a Dove could call "Peace" or a Hawk could call "Honor".

Although the Vietnamese made concessions, the agreement actually represents a stunning victory for them. All the armed might of the most powerful nation the world has ever known was insufficient to force a withdrawal of the forces of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam from the southern part of that country. There are still about 145,000 Vietnamese troops there, under no requirement to withdraw. Furthermore, in practice there is no way that they can be prevented from supplying or reinforcing themselves.

Also, there are at least as many American troops in Thailand, under the same lack of restrictions. They are already in combat with Thai guerrillas. American planes, on the day after the truce went into effect, pummed Laos with one of the heaviest bombardments of the war. The American war against southeastern Asia is still going on.

These facts have not been slow to impress themselves upon the consciousness of local Hawks. Already protests have been heard from right-wing Republicans, the group that was trying to replace President Nixon with Representative Ashbrook in last year's primaries. Their mythology is that Nixon is a basically well-meaning man who was led astray by the evil Harvard Jew Henry Kissinger. As it becomes apparent that the Vietnamese people are still going to overthrow that gang of Saigon boodlers that calls itself a "government", this crowd will escalate its demands that the war resume. Already, in his New York Post column of 1 February 1973, Jack Anderson reports that "The secret estimate of the Joint Chiefs is that the ceasefire will break down and the Communists ultimately will gain control of all Vietnam."

And, since this is why the US went to war in Indochina in the first place, the war will resume. Besides, on the day the truce was announced the stock market dropped 14 points for its biggest decline in 17 months. Obviously, this will not be allowed to continue.

But, since the armed forces show an increasing disinclination to fight, the only resort left to the government will be "Big Eddie". So...

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Months ago I had planned to write something about the Watergate espionage in this column. And then the thing began ramifying all over the place, and eventually I suppose somebody will write a book about it.

The trial was as fishy as the trial of James Earl Ray. The defendants either pled guilty, or were found guilty in great haste. No one other than themselves and a few witnesses were implicated. The chain of command that led upwards from G. Gordon Liddy was never revealed. The whole deal is reminiscent of these trials in which a Mafia triggerman is brought to book. He pleads guilty, serves his time, and leaves without ever revealing why he did what he did. And he gets paid off by his organization for

the time he serves on its behalf, just as the Watergate defendants will be. (The figure of \$1,000 per month is cited by Jack Anderson, New York Post, 15 January 1973.)

The only effort to get at the facts of the case seems to have been made by the judge. He was unimpressed by the defendants' argument that they "had been motivated by a fear of violence against Republicans planned by 'radical' groups linked to the Democrats." (New York Times, 25 January 1973) Hunt, a defendant who pled guilty, was even more fulsome. "Anything I may have done I did for what I believed to be the best interests of my country," was his explanation. (New York Post, 12 January 1973) Dollar Bill Buckley stands firmly behind Hunt. In his New York Post column of 19 September 1972 he wrote: "Barker said that he knows no man to whom his country should be more grateful than Howard Hunt. I concur. I have known the gentleman for 21 years and am the godfather of three of his children. Hunt is not a trifle - yet his involvement in the venture...tends to magnify rather than diminish the significance of the case."

Buckley himself provides the best window anyone has yet found into the inner motivations of the case. Quoting his fellow-conservative James Jackson Kilpatrick, he goes on to say, "The Castro government, foreseeing its economic excommunication from the Soviet Union, decided late this spring to make a deal with McGovern's Democratic Party. A very straightforward deal based on the tactical need of the McGovern people for money with which to wage the presidential campaign, and the strategic need of Cuba for more and more economic help in the years to come. Someone inside the Castro government - so the story goes - tipped off a prominent Republican to the fact that the deal would be secretly consummated at the Watergate, perhaps on the very day of June 17. The recipient of this information requisitioned a suitcase full of money with which to pay professionals to bug the Democratic headquarters."

And there you have it - the 1972 version of the old "Moscow gold" hoax!

(Barker, incidentally, pled guilty to all charges. As Buckley said, "He stressed that...nobody could succeed in making him talk about the supersecret mission in the Watergate Office Building." And nobody has.)

This was scarcely an isolated incident. In California the Republicans were out to bring members of the Wallaceite-Bircher splinter "American Independent Party" into their own party by persuading them to re-register as Republicans. If enough of them did this, the AIP would be ruled off the ballot, to the ultimate benefit of the Republicans. The plan was set up by former Attorney General John Mitchell and two other prominent Republicans, Jeb Stuart Magruder and Robert J. Walters, and a local man, Jack B. Lindsay. Their plan was to hire local Nazis (National Socialist White People's Party, a splinter of George Lincoln Rockwell's organization) to do the legwork. Joseph P. Tomassi, the Nazi leader, later spilled the whole thing because Walters was holding back on the money. The story was broken in the Los Angeles Free Press of 3 November 1972, complete with the photostat of a check for \$100, to Tomassi from Walters. Walters, despite the check photostat, denied everything.

Also in southern California, the office of the Democratic candidate for Congress from the 28th District was burgled and the political and financial files removed. (Los Angeles Free Press, 29 September 1972) And the Secret Service men assigned to guard Senator McGovern during the campaign turned in reports about McGovern to President Nixon. (New York Times, 3 November 1972) Forged letters plagued the primary campaigns of Senators Muskie and Jackson. (New York Times, 24 October 1972) And James McCord, another Watergate defendant, helped draft a "National Watchlist" as part of a censorship plan. "The list would include 'information the censors will look for as they open letters, monitor broadcasts, and question travelers.'" (New York Post, 23 October 1972)

But most of the threads in these great national mysteries seem to lead to the Cuban emigre community in Florida, New Orleans, and Washington. This was true not only of Watergate but also of the CIA, the Kennedy assassination, the abortive plot to shell the UN building, and the so-called "Squad 19" that was going to stir up violence at the Republican National Convention. Diligent investigation into these points has been made by Mae Brussell, whose forthcoming book will be well worth the reading. For already published information see Los Angeles Free Press, 11 and 25 August 1972.

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"Humphrey says that Congress has been treated by the media with 'ocular disdain.'
(continued on p. 12)

THE DIPLOMACY ASSOCIATION presents

STANDARD DIPLOMACY OPENINGS

by Eric Verheiden

Certain Diplomacy openings tend to occur with an exceptionally high frequency. Typically, they offer maximum possibilities for occupation of neutral and enemy supply centers as well as key spaces for attack and defense.

England

1. F Lon-Nth; F Edi-Nrg; A Liv-Yor.
2. F Lon-Nth; F Edi-Nrg; A Liv-Edi.

The resulting position from either opening allows for a supported convoy to insure ownership of Norway in the Fall.

Movement to Yorkshire is a conservative, defensive measure. Its purpose is to defend London should France enter the Channel. But when France is not so hostile, it restricts England to convoy via the North Sea and reduces offensive capabilities on the Continent. While it is a superior defense, the effort is usually wasted since France seldom attempts to occupy the Channel initially; in that unlikely happenstance, a better defense is F Lon-Eng.

There are numerous merits in maneuverability by movement to Edinburgh. Even if London is threatened, F Nth can convoy A Edi-Lon to defend, though F Nth-Lon is preferred.

France

1. F Bre-Mid; A Par-Bur; A Mar S A Par-Bur.
2. F Bre-Mid; A Par-Bur; A Mar-Spa.

Either opening allows the occupation of both Spain and Portugal in 1901. Barring the English stab of F Lon-Eng, France is assured of two builds. France can better defend against the stab by moving Paris to Picardy or Gascony. In the former instance, France is unable to properly defend Marseilles against Italy; in the latter instance, France barter away prerogatives to Belgium; and in both instances, France cannot cope with German penetration into Burgundy.

France is an innately difficult country to destroy. Even with a modicum of aid, France can hold Portugal, Spain, and Marseilles against a combined English/German thrust. Since the Eastern Powers rightly fear intrusion into the Mediterranean by the Western Powers, France can usually expect assistance against such aggression.

Ordering A Mar S A Par-Bur is preferred, insuring success. It gives France three options: A Bur-Bel, A Bur-Mun, A Bur-Mar. Most often Belgium is the goal.

The move of A Mar-Spa is customarily made with the intention of taking Portugal in the Fall combined with F Mid-Spa(s.c.). This is dangerous because it isolates A Por for a year. But it can also be rewarding when there is a strong German alliance and no threat from England or Italy, for France can build fleets in Marseilles and Brest in a sharp lunge against Italy or England. With these moves, Italy is especially vulnerable and the most desirable prey.

Germany

1. A Mun-Ruh; A Ber-Kie; F Kie-Den.
2. A Mun-Ruh; A Ber-Kie; F Kie-Hol.

It is Germany's unique displeasure of being immediately subject to encroachment by every country except Turkey. Because of this hazard, the German position is indefinitely tenuous. Too often German players assume the mantle of Holy Roman Emperors when they should exude the gentility of a Prince Consort. And just as often France and Eng-

land fail to capitalize on the strategic position of Germany in being able to pounce upon Italy and Austria.

Russia is a natural ally for Germany. Their interests mesh. In the long term, if Germany establishes a rapport whereby England battles in Scandinavia without overly embroiling Germany, and if Germany also swings France against Italy, Germany can nibble here and there. This security on Germany's western flank permits a healthy consolidation of power.

Because Germany is a house of cards, it must probe with discretion. Thus, F Kie-Den preserves the option of bouncing Russia in Sweden on the Fall move, or supporting Russia in Sweden subsequently.

While F Kie-Hol is Germany's best bet for three builds in 1901, the units are awkwardly placed. Three builds are bound to make too many neighbors unhappy and the Emperor may find himself playing solitaire with his cards.

(To be continued.)

THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY (continued from p. 10)

He didn't add that Congress got there on merit." - Peter Lisagor, New York Post, 20 January 1973

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"The only difference between an Iron Curtain country and a free country is that in a free country you don't know what you can't say." - Jack S. Margolis, Los Angeles Free Press, 19 January 1973

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"And once again," Garrick Utley announced, 'Lyndon Johnson is dead.'" - Joel Solkoff, Village Voice, 1 February 1973

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"Despite Coach Nixon's attempt to depict the outcome as something of a triumph - or at least a moral victory - there were no snake dances in the local streets...It was a little like Oklahoma having to settle for a draw with Hofstra." - James A. Wechsler, New York Post, 26 January 1973

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"The rabbi who will pray for President Nixon at the inauguration tomorrow plans to pronounce the blessing that the Talmud prescribes when one sees a king and his court." - Israel Shenker, New York Times, 19 January 1973

**

This publication is not edited under the supervision of Bangs Leslie Tapscott.

GRAUSTARK #284

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

"Tactical atomic explosives are now conventional and will be used against the military targets of any aggressive force." -
Richard M. Nixon